Mark Zaid
47 South Lake Ave., #4
Albany, NY 12203

9/17/92

Dear Mark,

Your project with Walt Brown seems worthwhile for the historical record whether or not C & G welcome it. When you a finished I'd appreciate copy for archival purposes. I do wonder whether C & G will welcome it because they have published some really terrible stuff they knew was terrible but believed would sell, as it did, and I believe their only concern was a libel suit or more.

Lesar is too busy for letters, alas. There are a number of mine he has not answered. He is into more than he can handle and has been for years.

A book on that Iowa explosion and what the Navy did sounds good to me. Good luck with it! You did not tell me anything about this before. I hope they make honest disclosure and not make excessive deletions. I think they may do that because so much can be embarrassing to them. And on this an idea to keep in mind: beginning with keeping detailed recofds of all you spend on this. You need that for tax purposes. If you do get to publish a book on it and the time comes you do not need those records and you make a gift of them to a college, you can then claim the cash value as the value of your deposit. And if a book is published you need a record of your expenses to legitimately reduce the money on which you have to pay taxes.

I did not know you had requested the FBI's records on you. What were you doing other than being interested in the JFK ssassination that could interest the FBI? If nothing then you know. Did their letter tell you why they were denying you the records? Did you ask if there is anything "reasonable segregable" in them? Did you ask Albany, HQ or both? Or any other field office? HQ does not have all there is. And even if a field office has an informer's report they can eliminate what can identify the informer and disclose the rest. And if as you say you appealed to the FBI, that was a mistake. You file your appeals with the DJ appeals office. Which stinks. If you have not done that you have not exhausted your administrative remedies and the case will be tossed out on that basis alone.

Good luck with all your ventures and with the bars.

By the way, I suggest that you keep in mind in writing the book that if you do a good and an honest job, I presume the latter, the book can have wide appeals and good sales in the gay community. As an alert publisher should realize. This is not to suggest that you lean that way in what you write but it is to keep in mind the possible interest of that audience. Playing it straight is all the subject matter needs.

Our best,

Harold